



**State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

## **William K. Watson Papers, 1862-1902, bulk 1862-1865**

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### **COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Watson, William K., 1833-1916

**Inclusive Dates:**

1862-1902, bulk 1862-1865

**Scope & Content:**

The core of the William K. Watson Papers, 1862-1902, bulk 1862-1865, is the diary of William K. Watson, which covers January 1864 to March 1865. The diary was transcribed by A. K. Cocke of the Georgia Department of Archives and History on April 30, 1985.

Watson was a Union soldier from Zanesville, Ohio, who enlisted in 1862 with the 150<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Regiment. He headquartered in Tennessee at Normandy near Tullahoma during the winter of 1864 before participating in the Battle of Atlanta and Sherman's march from Atlanta to Savannah. He describes various other battles and skirmishes that take place during the latter part of the war, including the Battle at New Hope Church, May 25-27, 1864; the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864; and the Battle of Peach Tree Creek, July 20, 1864.

Most of the remaining items in the collection are letters to and from Watson and his wife, Tillie that date from 1862 to 1865. Watson frequently writes of family matters and how deeply he misses his wife and children.

**Physical Description/Extent:**

1 microfilm reel

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Mf. 2002

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

Mf. 2002

**Repository:**

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Sgt. William K. Watson (1833-1916) enlisted on September 9, 1862, in Poughkeepsie, New York, and served in the New York Volunteers, 150<sup>th</sup> Regiment. He worked as a tailor both before and after the war. On March 16, 1865, he was wounded in combat, shortly after his diary ends on March 12, 1865. Watson married "Tillie" in 1856 and had several children, one of whom was named Gertie (Watson) Smith. According to an interview on March 11, 1969, with Mrs. Joseph S. Lawrence of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee (a summary of which is included in the collection), the diary was passed down to Gertie and then to her descendants and in-laws.

**Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

The materials had already been arranged by the donor, and were only slightly rearranged by the processor. The items are arranged by type and then chronologically.

**Conditions of Access and Use****Restrictions on Access:**

None

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:**

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## **Index Terms**

### **Personal Names:**

Watson, William K., 1833-1916

### **Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:**

United States. Army. New York Infantry Regiment, 150<sup>th</sup> (1862-1865)

### **Subjects:**

Atlanta Campaign, 1864

Sherman's March to the Sea

New Hope Church, Battle of, Ga., 1864

Kennesaw Mountain, Battle of, Ga., 1864

### **Geographic Names:**

Tennessee -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives

Georgia -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives

### **Document Types:**

Diaries

Correspondence

Photographs

## **Acquisition and Appraisal**

### **Provenance and Acquisition:**

The papers were loaned for microfilming on July 26, 2011, during the *Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee* digitization project in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

## **Processing and Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation:**

William K. Watson Papers, 1862-1902, bulk 1862-1865

### **Processing Information:**

Processing completed by Gwynn Thayer on November 18, 2011.

### **Existence and Location of Originals:**

Privately held.

### **Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2002.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

### CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Diary of William K. Watson, Zanesville, Ohio (original has been laminated and bound)	January 1864- March 1865	1	1
Transcription of diary, completed in 4/30/1985 by A.K. Cocke, Georgia Department of Archives and History	January 1864- March 1865 (transcribed in 1985)	1	2
Misc. items, including modern map of Watson's route to Savannah and notes on the provenance of the papers (taken in 1969)	Undated and 1969	1	3
Photographs	Undated	1	4
Reunion invitation, Independent Veteran Volunteers (w/envelope to William Watson)	February 28, 1868	1	5
City of Boston (Municipal Register)	1856	1	6
Rifle Musket label (1863) and misc. envelopes	1863	1	7
Post Chaplain's Memorial Day Report, Report of Chaplain of Harpeth, Post 81, Ohio G.A.R., Rev. E. Mansfield, Department Chaplain	7/13/1903	1	8
<i>Daily Courier</i> --- <i>Extra</i> , Zanesville, Ohio, front page	January 24, 1863	1	9
Letter, William K. Watson to Tillie (wife)	October 23, 1862	1	10
Letter, A. M. Hough to Watson	October 27, 1862	1	11
Letter, Watson to Tillie	November 1, 1862	1	12
Letter, Watson to Tillie	November 9, 1862	1	13
Letter, Watson to Tillie	November 19. 1862	1	14
Letter, Watson to Tillie	November 26, 1862	1	15
Letter, Sister (A.E. Slack) to Tillie	December 6, 1862	1	16
Letter, Tillie to Watson	January 3, 1863	1	17
Letter, Tillie to Watson	January 9, 1863	1	18
Letter, Watson to Tillie	March 22, 1863	1	19

Letter, Watson to Tillie	April 5, 1863	1	20
Letter, Watson to Tillie (includes photo of Capt. Wheeler)	May 3, 1863	1	21
Letter, Watson to Tillie	May 17, 1863	1	22
Letter, Watson to Tillie	June 29, 1863	1	23
Letter, Tillie to Watson	July 1, 1863	1	24
Letter, Watson to Tillie	July 15, 1863 (?)	1	25
Letter, Tillie to Watson	August 9, 1863	1	26
Letter, Watson to Tillie	October 27, 1863	1	27
Letter, Tillie to Watson	December 3, 1863	1	28
Letter, Watson to Tillie	December 7, 1863	1	29
Letter, Tillie to Watson	January 7, 1864	1	30
Letter, Watson to Tillie	January 11, 1864	1	31
Letter, Watson to Tillie	January 24, 1865	1	32
Letter, Watson to Tillie	March 6, 1864	1	33
Letter, Watson to Tillie	March 20, 1864	1	34
Letter, Watson to Tillie	May 28, 1864	1	35
Letter, Watson to Tillie	July 21, 1864	1	36
Letter, Brother (Elmer W. Slack) to Tillie	April 9, 1865	1	37
Letter, Watson to Tillie	June 7, 1865	1	38
Letter, Idell to Aunt	March 19, 1868	1	39
Letter, A. Vanderburgh to Watson	January 22, 1892	1	40
Letter, E. S. Cadwell to Watson	February 5, 1892	1	41
Letter, Wooley to Watson	February 18, 1892	1	42
Letter, Unknown to Watson (incomplete letter)	May 9, 1892	1	43
Letter, Joseph W. Holmes to Watson (includes Holmes' card with photograph)	January 15, 1893	1	44
Letter, Brother Edwin to Watson	October 5, 1902	1	45
Letter, F. M. Ransbottom to Watson	October 15, 1902	1	46
Letter, Watson to Children	Undated	1	47